

FEB 20 2006

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
PATENT OFFICE

Applicant: Focke, Heinz et al.

Application No.: 09/990796

Filing Date: 14 November 2001

Title: PROCESS AND APPARATUS FOR  
PRODUCING PACKS WITH AN OUTER  
WRAPPER AS WELL AS REEL UNIT

Art Unit: 3721

Examiner: Truong, T.K.

Confirmation No.: 3093

Customer No.: 022870

Docket No.: 20605.007US (148716.00700)

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

20 February 2006

Via Fax: +1.571.273.8300

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following Preliminary Amendments are submitted in conjunction with the Request for Continued Examination being filed concurrently herewith.

**Status** begins on page 2.

**Abstract Amendments** begin on page 3.

**Claims Amendments** begin on page 4

**Remarks** begin on page 11.

I certify that I have transmitted this document via facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at the official fax number 571.273.8300, this 20th day of February, 2006.

  
Laurence P. Colton

**STATUS**

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application.

The Abstract was been objected to.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 USC 112.

Claims 1, 6, 21 and 22 were finally rejected under 35 USC 103.

Claims 2-5 and 7-20 were withdrawn from consideration, but are being reintroduced herein.

**PETITION FOR AN EXTENSION OF TIME**

A separate Petition for an Extension of Time of three (3) months to respond to the final Office Action up to and including today, 20 February 2006, is being transmitted herewith, along with the petition fee of \$1020.00 for a large entity, which is enclosed by way of an authorization to charge a deposit account.

**NO EXCESS CLAIMS FEE**

The fee for twenty (20) total claims and four (4) independent claims has been paid. This response results in twenty (17) total claims and four (4) independent claims and no excess claims fee is required.